



## February 2 – A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart

Jesus understood that life at its best is a creative blending of opposites in ways that bear fruit. We don't often think of life that way because we have been taught that opposites are, well, opposite! But what if, alongside Martin Luther King, we choose to believe that Jesus wants, what Dr King calls "tough minds and tender hearts" to live inside us all? Join us this weekend as we discover some truths rarely talked about in our faith journeys!

### Scripture:

#### Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. <sup>2</sup> Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. <sup>3</sup> We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

#### Matthew 10:1-10, 16

Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. <sup>2</sup> Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), <sup>3</sup> Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, <sup>4</sup> Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). <sup>5</sup> Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions... <sup>7</sup> Go and announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! <sup>9</sup> "Don't take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. <sup>10</sup> Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed...

<sup>16</sup> "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.

### Questions:

- In today's message a quote from Martin Luther King was made: *"Nothing pains some people more than having to think."* Do you think this is true? What makes you say what you say?
- Do you think you have a "discerning spirit"? Do you take things at face value and assume most of what you see, read, hear is automatically true? Or do you stop and think about things before deciding what's true and what's not?
- Today's text reminds us that it is good to have the toughness of serpents and the tenderness of doves. Do you agree? Why or why not? Which one do you need to work on more?

### Reading for the Week:

**Monday:** Romans 12:2

**Tuesday:** 1 Kings 3:9

**Wednesday:** Psalm 119:66, 125

**Thursday:** Isaiah 11:2-3

**Friday:** Malachi 3:18